

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Public Hearing on HB 2705

My name is Rand Campbell. I'm a part owner of the Silvies Valley Ranch and a student at Willamette University College of Law. I would like to thank the committee in advance for considering my concerns with HB 2705.

HB 2705 requires the water appropriator to install, operate and maintain a device to measure the amount of water for each point of diversion or point of appropriation.

The problem is that of the few devices that could meet the requirements of HB 2705, none would allow accurate data collection as the bill is written. In the context of flood irrigation, the devices that could meet the requirements of HB 2705 require frequent monitoring and a high level of expertise for their operation. If the devices are not used properly, the data collected is highly inaccurate. Furthermore, the average landowner does not have the level of expertise needed to operate the proposed devices nor do we have time to collect data as frequently as would be necessary for accurate results.

The measurement devices that do comply with HB 2705's requirements are normally used by experienced hydrologists. This bill, although well intentioned, requires landowners to act as researchers without considering their background or training. If enacted as written, it would place an unreasonable burden on landowners for what is a public benefit. If the State feels this information is important then the State should pay for the measuring devices and provide appropriately trained hydrologists to monitor the water quality.

I am proud to own a ranch where we take great pride in our commitment to sustainable management of our property. We have always been willing to do what is necessary to protect our air, water and soil and be good stewards of our lands. At Silvies Valley Ranch, we gladly work in partnership with our community, county and the State for the common good. What I am not willing to do is to commit to adhering to standards that are unachievable or unreasonable. It is for those reasons that I respectfully request the Environment and Natural Resource committee not move HB 2705 out of committee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best Regards,

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